

# Transit District Asks to Buy City Bus Line

Torrance

## Press-Herald

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# Council Reverses Vote On Travel; Lifts Limit

## Council To Study Bus Bid

A proposal to sell the Torrance Municipal Bus Lines to the Southern California Rapid Transit System was referred last night to a City Council committee.

Under the proposal, presented by Assemblyman L. E. (Larry) Townsend (D-67th District) to the council, the Rapid Transit District would maintain present schedules for a two-year period by contracting to operate the bus lines.

The city would pay a \$70,000 subsidy for each of the two years — the present operation reportedly is resulting in a deficit of nearly \$100,000 each year. At the end of the two years, the city would have the option of renewing the contract on a year-to-year basis or letting the transit district take over the entire system.

PRESENT employees would be permitted to join the Rapid Transit District or be transferred to other city jobs. In each case, their seniority would be maintained.

"The people who use the buses now in the city of Torrance will gain tremendously by this move," Townsend said. He said senior citizens would be allowed to ride at a cheaper rate and that taxpayers would save nearly \$30,000 annually.

Townsend said he had been working to bring about a merger of the Torrance bus lines with the Rapid Transit District since his election to the Assembly. He is a member of the Assembly's Transportation

## Del Amo Center Saluted Today

The Press-Herald today salutes the new Del Amo Financial Center with the publication of a special 16-page supplement covering the history of the Financial Center and some of its major tenants.

Formal dedication ceremonies for the first phase of the development, which eventually will provide some one million square feet of office space at a cost of \$30 million, were held this morning at 9 a.m.

Included in the first increment of the center is the 13-story Union Bank Tower, a five-story ring building, and four pavilion buildings. Two more towers, two more ring buildings, and two pavilions are planned for future construction.

The Financial Center will house banks, stock brokerage firms, savings and loan associations, and accountants, lawyers, real estate brokers, and related businesses.

## 5-1 Vote Ends \$1,000 Limit

Torrance City Councilmen last night voted to lift a two-month limit on travel outside the city.

The move came about on a surprise motion by Councilman J. A. Beasley, who claimed the limit was "too low."

Councilman Ross Sclarotta Sr. quickly joined in also terminating the \$1,000 per year limit too low. David K. Lyman added that the council "should let each councilman be the judge of his own expenditures."

BEASLEY THEN pointed out that if the people feel a councilman is spending too much on junkets, they will make the final decision.

Lone dissenter to the argument was Vice Mayor Ken Miller, who said, "It's not proper or right. If we don't police ourselves we deserve what criticism we will get." After several minutes of debate, Miller, presiding in place of Mayor Albert Isen, who left the meeting early, called for the vote.

COUNCILMEN Beasley, Lyman, Sclarotta, Edward Talbert, and George Vico voted to lift the \$1,000 limit. Miller voted "no."

The debate over expenditures by councilmen and city employees on junkets goes back to February when the council voted a ban on all travel outside the city "in the interest of economy."

It was sparked when two Planning Commissioners asked to attend a Texas convention.

IN EARLY May the council reversed itself and okayed

travel outside the city but did not set a specific limit, referring it to committee.

Then last July 18 the council (See TRAVEL, Page A-2)

## Adoption Approved By Court

A deaf mute couple from the Carson area Tuesday won a 15-month fight to adopt a 2-year-old boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Christensen, of 425 Broderick St., won the adoption order Tuesday in Superior Court following a new adoption hearing. The decree was signed by Judge Bayard Rhone.

The boy, Scott Richardson, was turned over to the Christensens by Mrs. Christensen's sister, Mrs. Evelyn Mason of Inglewood. He had been staying with Mrs. Mason during the past several months.

The adoption hearing Tuesday ended a 15-month court battle which began in June, 1966, when Superior Court Judge A. A. Scott ruled the Christensens could not provide a normal home for Scott, who is a normal child.

The Christensens appealed the decision and last May 22 the District Court of Appeals ordered a new hearing after overturning Judge Scott's decision. An appeal to the State Supreme Court by the County's Bureau of Adoptions was denied.

The Christensens have another child, Janet Cornell, 7, over whom they have had legal guardianship since she was 2 years old.

## Dr. James Lees Rites on Friday

Dr. James K. Lees, a prominent Torrance physician here for more than 14 years, died in his sleep in his San Pedro home early Tuesday.

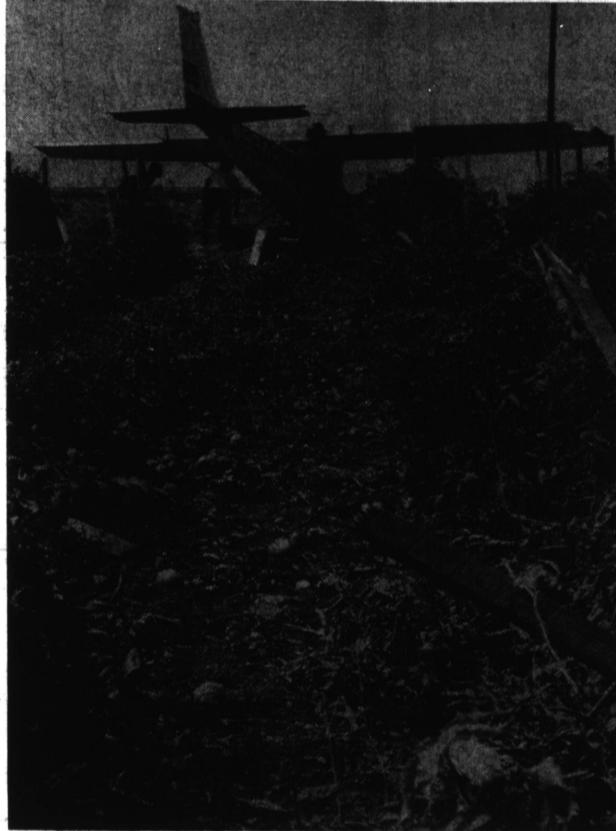
The 45-year-old doctor was active in the medical profession here and in Southern California and was chief of staff at Torrance Memorial Hospital in 1964-1965. He also was a member of the staff at Little Company of Mary Hospital and instructor in otolaryngology at the University of Southern California's Good Hope Clinic.

Dr. Lees was a graduate of the Tulane University

School of Medicine in 1946 and interned at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles the following year. He was resident surgeon at Harbor General Hospital during 1947 and 1948 and for three years was resident in ear, nose, and throat clinic at the Columbia Presbyterian Medical Center in New York.

The physician was the author of two scientific publications, was a diplomat of the American Board of Ophthalmology and Otolaryngology.

His widow, Eva, who survives him, is past president of



QUICK HARVEST . . . A student pilot harvested a couple of rows of tomatoes the quick way Saturday afternoon when he crash landed a light plane while approaching the Torrance Municipal Airport, Thyril A. Savage, of Lynwood, escaped from the crash unhurt. Savage said he was approaching the airport for a landing when he lost power, then cut through a power line while maneuvering to avoid a palm tree. He crashed into the tomato patch, narrowly missing a group of workers, then came to a halt against a chain link fence.

(Press-Herald Photo)

## BOARD TAKES NO ACTION

## Teachers Ask to Reopen Discussion of Salaries

A complaint that faculty challenged the procedure in which negotiations have been formulated among the faculty, administrative officials and board of trustees.

In a letter to the board, the TEA, said the present channels, in the opinion of the group's executive board, are not satisfactory to either the citizens or the employees.

A SOLUTION presented by the group calls for the Board of Education to appoint two of its members to meet with two representatives of the TEA executive board and the secretaries of both boards.

Board member Polly Watts reminded the group it was improper to negotiate outside

of the district chambers. However, the need for a better line of communication was acknowledged by all parties concerned.

THE BOARD did not take action on salaries at this time. For the purpose of recruiting (See TEACHERS, Page A-2)

Spokesman Noel Marble

## Carson Teenager Wins Citizen-of-Month Award

An 18-year-old Carson youth who last March pulled a baby from a burning car will be honored today as the South Bay Citizen of the Month for September.

William Ronald Richards is scheduled to receive the Great Lakes Properties Co. award at a luncheon meeting of the Carson-Dominguez Rotary Club.

Young Richards is being honored for his heroic efforts in rescuing an 8-month-old infant from a burning automobile last Spring.

RICHARDS was working at his job in the Scottsdale Shopping Center at Avalon and Sepulveda boulevards when he heard the sounds of a baby crying and looked out the front door to see from where it was coming. The sounds led him to focus

on a parked car which was pouring out smoke. He raced to the car and saw a baby lying on the front seat. The back seat was in flames and the windows were closed. The baby was alone.

WHEN RICHARDS discovered the door on the passenger side of the vehicle locked, he raced to the driver's side, opened the door, and rescued the child just moments before the entire interior of the car was consumed in flames.

Today's luncheon meeting is scheduled at the Golden Bull Restaurant in Gardena. Richards will receive a special plaque and award in the program to honor the year's outstanding citizens each month.

Richards, now married and the father of a infant son, is employed in Hawthorne.



PLACE NEW PAMPHLETS . . . Members of the Torrance League of Women Voters have announced publication of its new edition of "Facts for Voters." The pamphlets, which provide information on registration, absentee ballots, and how to address public officials, were produced under the direction of Mrs. William Birdsall, voters service chairman. Pictured placing some of the pamphlets in the Walteria Library are (from left) Mrs. Dorothy Schram, librarian; Mrs. I. W. Boxwe, Melvin Angell, and Mrs. Birdsall, all of the League. The pamphlets are free and may be obtained in all Torrance libraries, the city hall, schools, and the Torrance Chamber of Commerce. (Press-Herald Photo)



DR. JAMES K. LEES Dies in Sleep

the Torrance Junior Women's Club and has been active in Torrance Memorial Hospital Auxiliary for many years.

Also surviving are two sons, James Matthew Lees, 17, and John Kinler Lees, 4; two daughters, Allyson, 15, and Melinda, 13; his mother, Mrs. Nora K. Lees, New Orleans; and two sisters, Mrs. Lolita Watkins of Vista and Mrs. Leslie Birch of West Covina.

Funeral services will be held in the chapel at Halverson-Leavell Mortuary here Friday at 11 a.m. with the Rev. A. Edward Couch of the First Presbyterian Church of San Pedro officiating.

The family has suggested that donations to Torrance Memorial Hospital be made.

## School Tax Rate Set

A tax rate of \$4.2378 per \$100 assessed valuation has been set for the Torrance Unified School District by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The rate is down nearly 10 cents from the \$4.3370 levied last year. Taxes for the El Camino Junior College District, the Southern California Regional Occupational Center, and several state supported institutions will increase the total rate for all schools to \$4.9194 per \$100 assessed valuation. A rate of 6.47 cents was levied for the occupational center, while the El Camino rate was set at 59.36 cents.

## Torrance Youth Killed

A 17-year-old South High School senior was killed last Saturday afternoon when he was struck by a car while riding a motorcycle in Harbor City. David A. Grimes, of 4319 Newton St., died of head injuries after he was struck by a car near Vermont Avenue and Pacific Coast Highway. Police booked Willie D. Hysaw, 31, of 917 W. C St., Wilmington, on a manslaughter charge following the accident. Grimes was active in a number of South High School clubs and was a member of the football team and the school band.

## Woman Hit by Sniper

A 29-year-old woman was shot by a sniper who apparently fired from a car about 6 p.m. Monday in the Los Angeles Strip area east of Torrance. Paula Jane Kennedy, of 1615 W. 224th St., was shot in the lower left chest as she was walking on Harvard Boulevard between 223rd and 224th Streets, police reported. A second woman walking with Miss Kennedy was unhurt. Police said two or three shots were fired from a car which came up behind the two women, then took off at a high rate of speed. Miss Kennedy was taken to Harbor General Hospital, where she was reported in good condition late Tuesday.